

# Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

## TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 574

Thank you Mr. Chairman and committee members, for this hearing on Senate Bill 574. This is a bi-partisan bill that would make changes to state statute to address a current loophole that is allowing some suspects to go without prosecution.

Currently, no operator of a vehicle, after having received a visible or audible signal to stop his or her vehicle from a traffic officer or marked police vehicle, shall knowingly resist by failing to stop his or her vehicle or knowingly elude, or flee from any officer so as to interfere with, or endanger the operation of the police vehicle, the traffic officer, other vehicles, or pedestrians.

This bill, as amended, changes the wording "marked police vehicle" to "marked or unmarked police" in statute. Various Wisconsin law enforcement agencies make use of unmarked police cars for different reasons and many of those vehicles are able to display emergency lighting. These lights, although more concealed, they are unmistakably identifiable as emergency lights when turned on. These unmarked vehicles are still authorized emergency vehicles and should be held in the same regard as marked police vehicles.

I hope you will join me in cleaning up this statute by supporting SB 574, and eliminating this loophole for those that attempt to flee or elude an officer.

Again, thank you for hearing this important bill.

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January 11, 2017

To: Chairman Van Wanggaard and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety

From: Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association

Re: Support SB 574/AB 678

I am Chief Dennis Plantz, of the Berlin Police Department, and I am here on behalf of the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police (WCPA). The WCPA represents over 700 law enforcement leaders within municipal police agencies from communities across our state. We are here today to testify in support SB 574 and its companion bill AB 678. We thank Representative Kleefisch and Senator Van Wanggaard for working to close this loophole in our current laws.

SB 574 and AB 678 will close a loophole in current law (WI State Statute 346.04) that criminals have figured out. The loophole allows criminals to avoid being charged when they knowingly resist, flee, or attempt to elude any officer who attempts to apprehend them using an unmarked vehicle. This is because according to the courts, our statutes do not make clear that an authorized emergency vehicle also includes an unmarked police vehicle. An unmarked vehicle is any vehicle without the word "police" on it. This applies regardless if the vehicle is outfitted with police lights and a siren.

This bill has a very narrow focus and eliminates that loophole. This bill would prevent criminals from using the loophole, by specifying that an unmarked police vehicle is an authorized emergency vehicle. This would make it illegal for criminals to knowingly resist, flee, or attempt to elude any officer who attempts to apprehend them using an unmarked vehicle.

Current law provides protections against bad actors impersonating officers using unmarked vehicles.

The law allows for anyone followed and ordered to pull over by a law enforcement officer, to continue driving at or below the speed limit with their lights on until the driver finds a location where they feel safe to pull over. Note, this is not considered fleeing. Furthermore, the driver can call 911 and verify the validity of the officer in pursuit. Under no circumstances is a motorist expected to pull over in a secluded area or ever get out of their car. They can keep driving until they drive to a well-lit area or pullover where there are many individuals.

This bill will improve the safety of the public, and the safety of the officers who serve to protect the public.

We urge the Committee to pass this legislation and thank Senator Van Wanggaard and Representative Kleefisch for sponsoring this.



## Kids **NEED** ***BOTH*** Parents

WISCONSIN **F**ATHERS FOR **C**HILDREN AND **F**AMILIES

PO Box 1742, Madison WI 53701 • [info101@wisconsinfathers.org](mailto:info101@wisconsinfathers.org) • [volunteer@wisconsinfathers.com](mailto:volunteer@wisconsinfathers.com)

[www.wisconsinfathers.org](http://www.wisconsinfathers.org) • <https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinFathersForChildrenFamilies>

For Help: <http://www.wisconsinfathers.org/contact-form.htm>

I've included a copy of the statistics associated with children and adolescents with only one significantly involved parent, in their lives. These youth are 2 times more likely to drop out of high school. They are 4 times more likely to have behavioral problems. They are 7 times more likely to have a teen pregnancy. Youths with only one parent significantly involved in their lives, make up 85% of the youth in prison. There is no doubt having two parents actively and significantly involved in Wisconsin's youths lives, gives them the best chance at being healthy emotionally.

### Senate Bill 448 (Move Away)

WFCF believes strongly that parents who stay in close proximity with their children, provides the best situation for both the children and the parents. Currently the move away allowance is 150 miles; this **current proposed bill (AB551) cuts that allowable limit to 100 miles.** We strongly feel that this is greatly beneficial to children and families, and a key to maintaining both parents continued involvement with their shared children. When parents are separated geographically there is no doubt it adds **an additional burden to the children of extensive travel times that could be up to 6 hours roundtrip (150 miles).** Decreasing that travel time to as little as possible (*4 hours/100 miles*) benefits the children greatly as well as benefitting both parents.

Thank you for this opportunity.

*Tony Bickel  
Madison*

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WFCF hosts "Father's Night Out" network and support meetings throughout Wisconsin scan QR Code or visit our website for locations, schedule, contacts



# Why Do Children Need Shared Parenting?

## Without Shared Parenting, children are...


more likely to  
abuse drugs  
and alcohol

as likely to drop  
out of high school


more likely to have  
emotional or  
behavioral problems


more likely to  
become a teen parent


more likely to  
face abuse  
and neglect


63%   
of youth suicides

And make up...


85%   
of youth in prison

85%   
of all children with  
behavioral problems

75%   
of adolescent patients in  
substance abuse rehab

71%   
of high  
school dropouts

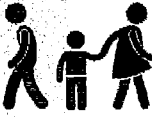
## How do the adult children of divorce and separation feel about Shared Parenting?

Only 7%   
felt their mothers wanted  
them to spend equal  
amounts of time with each parent

70% of all children  
believed equal time with  
each parent was best




However...

85%   
of children wanted  
more time with their fathers

93% of those who  
actually lived equal  
time with each parent,  
believed it was best



Over  70% knew their fathers wanted more time and wanted to live equally with them; they also knew their mothers opposed it

## What have the studies and world-wide experts concluded?



Shared Parenting is linked to better outcomes for children of all ages across a wide range of emotional, behavioral, and physical health measures

### It's simple, Shared Parenting:

- Limits at risk youth
- Diminishes major societal issues
- Is preferred by children
- Is endorsed by the professionals

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